

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/832,631

Applicant(s)

ROWE ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Arnel C. Lavarias

2872

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 5/24/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-53.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

**THONG NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The amendments to Claims 1 and 29 in the submission dated 5/24/06 are acknowledged and accepted.
2. The cancellation of Claims 54-60, 63-64 in the submission dated 5/24/06 is acknowledged and accepted.

Response to Arguments

3. In view of the amendments above incorporating the limitations of Claim 63 into Claim 1 and the limitations of Claim 64 into Claim 29, the rejections in Sections 10-14 of the Office Action dated 2/28/06 are respectfully withdrawn.

Election/Restrictions

4. Claims 1, 29, and 53 are generic and allowable. Accordingly, the restriction requirement as to the encompassed species is hereby withdrawn and Claims 8, 10, 12, 17, 20-28, 36, 41, 44-52 are no longer withdrawn from consideration since all of the claims depend from or otherwise include each of the limitations of an allowed generic claim.

In view of the above noted withdrawal of the restriction requirement as to the linked species, applicant(s) are advised that if any claim(s) depending from or including all the limitations of the allowable generic linking claim(s) be presented in a continuation or divisional application, such claims may be subject to provisional statutory and/or

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nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Once a restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. See *In re Ziegler*, 44 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-53 are allowed.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1 is allowable over the cited art of record for at least the reason that the cited art of record fails to teach or reasonably suggest a spectrometer system, as generally set forth in Claim 1, the spectrometer system including, in combination with the features recited in Claim 1, the sampler being configured to receive the filtered, encoded light from the encoder. Claims 2-28 are dependent on Claim 1, and hence are allowable for at least the same reasons Claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 29 is allowable over the cited art of record for at least the reason that the cited art of record fails to teach or reasonably suggest a spectrometer, as generally set forth in Claim 29, the spectrometer including, in combination with the features recited in Claim 29, the encoding unit being operable to selected at least a first subset of the passbands of light or a second subset of the passbands of light for transmission to a sampler adapted to

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interrogate a biological sample. Claims 30-52 are dependent on Claim 29, and hence are allowable for at least the same reasons Claim 29 is allowable.

Claim 53 is allowable over the cited art of record for at least the reasons as previously set forth in Section 18 of the Office Action dated 10/3/05.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Arnel C. Lavarias whose telephone number is 571-272-2315. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30 AM - 6 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Drew Dunn can be reached on 571-272-2312. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

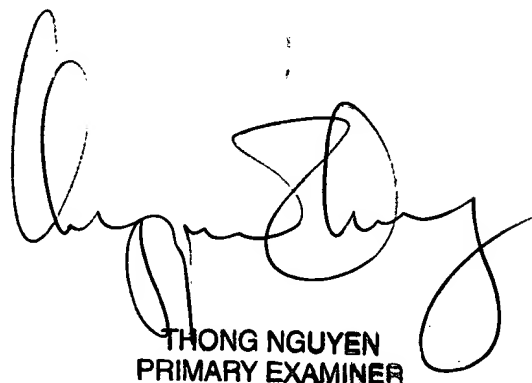
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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Arnel C. Lavarias

6/6/06



THONG NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER